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CLARKSBURG, W. VA., JAN. 6, 1904.

DEMOCRACY FATALLY WRONG.

Some of the leaders of the Democratic party, notably Senator Gorman and rabid party men who are anxious to find something to work off as one of the issues in the coming presidential campaign, are ranting against the Republican administration regarding the Panama canal treaty concluded at referendum with the new republic of Panama by President Roosevelt. The very thing that the president favors "secession," that he had no the right to conclude the treaty with Panama as he did, that his action was unwarranted and unprecedented, that public sentiment was against the treaty from beginning to end and that his conduct was "unwise, precipitate and iniquitous." They say, also, that there is a moral side of the issue which the administration, and more especially President Roosevelt, rashly and impudently unheeded. This moral side of the issue, they claim, is that the action has violated century-old tradition of national fair dealing; that the United States greedily and selfishly oppress a weak nation, and that the government has tried to obtain the canal wrong and dishonorably.

In the first place the matter is not an issue or an act of the Republican party even though done by a Republican president. It is a national transaction, an one with which party lines have not a iota of connection. Party fealties have nothing to do with it. It is the United States government, and not the Republican party.

Patience and forbearingly did the United States endeavor to successfully negotiate a treaty for an inter-oceanic canal. The war with Spain taught this country an object lesson that will never be forgotten until after such a water way is completed. Colombia, not satisfied with reasonable offers, liberal concessions and the courtesies and indulgences accorded her, greedily and aversely demanded a gross extortion from the United States. She was buoyed up by the fancy that she had a rich government where she wanted it, and could replenish her depleted coffers in any way in the lap of unusual and peculiar circumstances. Then a portion of the people, resenting the selfish and voracious actions of the oligarchy which overruled them, rose up in righteous wrath and indignation, overthrew their government and instituted a new one of their own.

The president acted promptly in such an emergency and, desiring to conclude a treaty as the representatives of the people had instructed him, and to avoid bloodshed in an unnecessary revolution warily, prudently, cautiously and discreetly, with the department of state did his duty.

The president had a right to do as he did. In the act of congress, approve June 28, 1902, providing for "the construction of a canal connecting the waters of the Pacific and Atlantic oceans," the president was "authorized to secure for the United States the property of the Panama Canal company and the perpetual control of a strip six miles wide across the Isthmus of Panama." It was further provided that "should the president be unable to obtain for the United States a satisfactory title to the property of the New Panama Canal company and the control of the necessary territory of the Republic of Colombia . . . within a reasonable time and upon reasonable terms, then the president should endeavor to provide for a canal by the Nicaragua route." The language defines with exactness and precision what was to be done and what, as a matter of fact, has been done. The action of the president was, therefore, warranted.

The action of the United States government was not unprecedented. "On the contrary, our history contains several precedents for just such a course as our government followed. In 1855 the United States overthrew the administration of General Walker, then president of Nicaragua. In 1891 our navy interfered in the revolution in Chili against Balmaceda, and brought our sailors into such disfavor that a Chilean mob killed two of them and seriously wounded eighteen others. In 1893 the naval forces of the United States overthrew the government of Queen Liliuokalani in Honolulu. In January, 1901, our government, at the request of the asphalt trust, interfered in the dispute between Castro and the rival asphalt companies."

The Democrats say that public sentiment was against the diplomatic movements. Not from the overwhelming majority! Not from the majority of the Democratic party itself! Prominent and influential Democratic newspapers, such as the Brooklyn Eagle, the Hartford Times, the Detroit Free Press, the Atlanta Constitution and the New Orleans Times-Democrat favor the ratification of the treaty, and the New York American, the New York World and the Louisville Courier-Journal do not oppose it. The Louisiana legislature, which is solidly Democratic, instructed its United States senators to vote in favor of the treaty. The governor of Georgia, in a public speech, urged all southern senators to act similarly. The presidents of the boards of trades of a dozen southern cities report the sentiment in favor of the treaty. "The defeat of the treaty by Democratic vote is scarcely probable," says the Cleveland Plain Dealer (Ind. Dem.). "I. Gorman's plans to kill the treaty succeed," says the Charlotte Chronicle (Dem.). "he could deal the Democratic party no more fatal blow."

The nation's honesty or its reputation for fair dealing has not been affected in all of the transactions with the Colombian and Panamanian governments; the national honor has been kept unblemished. That we do not want to obtain the canal wrongly or dishonorably we do not deny; but there is absolutely no foundation for the unpatriotic insinuation that there has been anything wrong, or dishonorable. The United States government was presented with an opportunity which the trend of affairs made. The government did not take an unfair advantage of the situation, but, to the contrary, agreed to give value receive for everything it expects to get. Great Britain, France and all of the powers of Europe, recognized the de facto government in the Isthmus in nearly as short a time as the United States did.

There is no part of the world where there is a person with goods to sell or where money is exchanged and circulated that will not feel the benefit of the action of the United States in the Panama canal matter.

The arguments, which Democracy vainly and feebly tries to make a campaign issue against the Republican party, and which are wholly in contravention of the facts as herein stated, are absurd and ridiculous in the extreme. They evidently emanated from the addle-brained, rankly prejudiced men of the party who look at every national move made by a Republican president through smoked glasses, and the moves of a Democratic administration through rose-colored ones.

THE PET PLUG.

Another conspicuous feature of the city government, in addition to those that have been pointed out by the Telegram the past few days, is the practice of filling the city up with smoke during cold weather.

Just at what degree the thermometer must stand for the commissioner of water works to decide that this is necessary is not the Telegram's province to know, it not having occurred to it to ascertain, but that there is a mark that guides him in the matter a review of the city will show.

It may be possible that a smoky city is warmer than one with a crystal atmosphere. Perhaps, the smoke he cause may warm us all up and do us good but, really, there are few, if any, who appreciate that fact. Possibly, not being cognizant of the amount of good done as we should refrain from any harsh allusion to the custom and learn to forget it, when our lungs feel it so keenly and our eyes become dimmed, and our faces begrimed.

The wise sages years ago discussed the matter pro and con. But they never experimented enough to find out the true status. Having listened patiently to one another, and having exploded themselves on the subject in such exhaustive manner, in their weakness they concluded to surrender to the practices of the fathers and prepare themselves to be gathered unto them some day.

The fire plug is the cause of all this cloudiness of air and thought. It causes the smoke and confusion. It is a problem that stalls the wisest and long will it remain so, since there has been complete surrender to it, and it reigns supreme.

Now, that plug is a very necessary ad-

junet to a well-regulated city, and its disappearance would be beheld with alarm of great magnitude, and there would be those who would refuse to be comforted. And so it is with the fire that is built around it, when Jack Frost prolongs his visits, and there are those who would deplore the absence of the blaze around the thing that spurts forth water whenever the wrench is applied. The street loafer without shelter would be at a loss to protect himself from the blasts of winter, and he might meander to the crematory and be roasted alive. Terrible would be the loss of his presence among us, for he has been like the poor; we have them with us always.

This plug, however, that receives so much municipal attention and care at great expense is a mystery unraveled. It is different from plugs in other cities in that it receives so much protection and is so little known. Men who have been engaged in the water business for years know but little about its operation, its antics, its mischievousness, its nature. There may be a stoppage or cut-off valve, but it would not do to cut it off, for it might go dry and shrivel up this cold weather. Again, with a fulness of flow the weather man might persuade it to enter voluntary bankruptcy and burst itself wider than the average man finds himself when monkeying with the great Steel trust.

But common sense teaches that, if other cities can have these plugs without making pets out of them and nursing them as the fond mother does her first born, Clarksburg can have them too. Some one may say, "Why have any other kind?" The Telegram says, "Why not?" And when it says this, it is with much emphasis on the not. Others are saying the same thing, and it is about time it was up to the city council to ask the same question and then put forth efforts to answer it.

CONVIVIAL CATCHES

And There You Are.

Parkersburg Sentinel: As near as we can make out the Russia-Japan situation is about this: Russia sent a curt reply to Japan's note refusing everything that Japan asked; Russia has not yet replied to Japan's note; Russia has sent a conciliatory reply to Japan; Russia is considering a reply to Japan's note. That is the present status of the case, according to the home-made cables to the yellow journals.

A Hard Time.

Wheeling Intelligence: John R. McLean will have a hard time of it getting a Gorman delegation in Ohio with Tom Johnson still on the map. The Cleveland mayor has not been so thoroughly effaced from Ohio Democratic politics as some people imagine.

Strenuous Life.

Wheeling News: The energetic correspondent of the Morning Advocate relates the following incident of the strenuous life at Peanut:

Ookie Sturm is driving a team for Jessie Beatty.

Garfield Booth was calling on his best girl Sunday evening.

Happy Bill.

Dayton Press: Bryan is on the high seas, in high feather, with food for thought, copy for the Commoner and material for his lecture on "The Crowned Heads Who Have Met Me."

Stand Pat.

Youngstown Telegram: It is said that several bills aimed at the press will be introduced at Columbus. The authors will discover that while press muzzlers may be jammed through in Pennsylvania, there will be a different story to tell in Ohio.

The Real Thing.

Pittsburg Times: Colds in the head are fashionable.

Rumored Again.

Youngstown Telegram: Now 'tis rumored that Journalist Willie Bryan will slate Journalist Willie Hearst for the Democratic presidential nomination.

FOR THE SCRAP BOOK

Just after the war an old dandy came up to the governor and said: "Master, kin you make me justice ob de peace?"

"Well, Uncle Ned, in a case of suicide what would you do?"

Uncle Ned thought deeply. "Master, I'd make him pay de costs ob de court and support de child."—Lippincott's Magazine.

In the Open.

By Arthur Stringer.

I have thrown the throttle open and am tearing down His track;

I have thrown it out to full-speed and no hand can hold me back!

'Tis my arm controls the engine, tho' another owns the rail,
But for once I'm in the open and the yard-lights pass and pale!

Green lights! Red lights! He has hur!
His signals out!
Caution here! Danger ho! and what's the men about!

'Tis true he owns the Engine, to do as he has done,
But how about the Final Word—when he ends the run?

So from siding on to junction point now
I shall have my day;
I have stopped to read no orders, but I take the right-of-way.

Down the open grade I thunder and around the curve I swing,
For my hand is on the throttle and my heart shall have its fling!

Light lost! Life lost! Flag, O flag the others back!
Switch the wreck! O ditch the wreck!
Dare any block His track?

There creeps into the Terminal the man who had his day,
But I wonder, O my soul, just what his God will say!

—From McClure's Magazine.

AUGUSTA COUNTY
WILL NOT DOWN.

Fight to Be Revived at the Next Session of the Legislature.

Those interested in the formation of the proposed county of Augusta, the bill for the creation of which met with such a disastrous fate at Charleston last winter, say that the matter has by no means been allowed to go by default, and that at the next session of the legislature every effort will be brought to bear to achieve the desired result. In a conversation with one of those interested, the gentleman said:

"We propose to see this thing through. Our people want it, and of right we should have it. We were tricked at Charleston at the last session of the legislature, but we will not be again. There will be a new deal, with new men in the legislative body, and we will win in the long run. If not, it will not be because of any lack of effort on the part of the friends of the new county."

Dislocated Her Shoulder.

Mrs. Johanna Soderholm, of Fergus Falls, Minn., fell and dislocated her shoulder. She had a surgeon get it back in place as soon as possible, but it was quite sore and pained her very much. Her son mentioned that he had seen Chamberlain's Pain Balm advertised for sprains and soreness, and she asked him to buy her a bottle of it, which he did. It quickly relieved her and enabled her to sleep, which she had not done for several days. The son was so much pleased with the relief it gave his mother that he has since recommended it to many others. For sale by Stone & Mercer, druggists.

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